



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 14, 2004**

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
MARVIN SMILON, HERBERT HADAD,
MEGAN GAFFNEY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600**

**HISTORIC PUCK BUILDING SETTLES WITH U.S.
TO COMPLY WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that the United States has filed in Manhattan federal court, and simultaneously settled through a Consent Decree, a civil lawsuit under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, against New Puck, LP ("New Puck"), owner of the historic Puck Building.

Located on Lafayette Street in Soho, the Puck Building houses public function rooms, including the Grand Ballroom, the Skylight Ballroom, and the Lafayette Ballroom, as well as lavatories, hallways and galleries serving these function rooms. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a New York City landmark.

Under the terms of a Consent Decree with the United States, New Puck has agreed to make the Puck Building accessible to people with disabilities. The Consent Decree requires New Puck to

install an accessible wheelchair lift entrance into the Puck Building, as well as to modify toilet facilities, elevators and ramps to make such features accessible to individuals with disabilities.

The Consent Decree also requires New Puck to construct a fully accessible unisex restroom on the seventh floor of the Building, where a ballroom is located. Under the Consent Decree, New Puck has agreed to provide accessible interior routes, service areas, alarm systems and signage directing patrons with disabilities to accessible routes and service areas.

Finally, the Consent Decree requires New Puck to pay the United States \$12,500 in settlement of the United States' claim for civil penalties, and obligates New Puck to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making any future alterations to the Puck Building. New Puck has already completed certain of these renovations and the Consent Decree requires all of the alterations and renovations to be completed within a 12-month period.

Mr. KELLEY stated: "The comprehensive corrective measures required by this Consent Decree will ensure that people with disabilities will have an equal opportunity to participate in events offered in this historic, landmarked building."

Assistant United States Attorney SARAH E. LIGHT is in charge of the case.

04-144

###

